

Dear students, friends, teachers and well-wishers,

As Teacher's Day draws closer and our honourable Prime Minister prepares to celebrate it with much enthusiasm, here in Pune, our strike has crossed the 80-day mark. We would like to take this moment to do two things –

One, to convey our deepest thanks to teachers, professors, educators, filmmakers, activists, artistes, writers, parents, seniors and students – from around the country and internationally – who have supported us, inspired us, stood by us and from whom we continue to learn every single day.

And second, it is now equally important to remind our government and the honourable Prime Minister that the students of FTII have now been out of their classes for 80 long days! Despite overwhelming support for our strike from the very 'guru's' or 'teachers' that they want to celebrate, the government has so far refused to hear our voices and failed to take any concrete steps to resolve this crisis.

At this critical juncture, it's important that the voices in our support merge and our questions grow louder, so we write this email to *sincerely yet urgently* appeal to each and every one of you to **write a personal letter to the Honourable Prime Minister of India**, Mr Narendra Modi urging him to intervene in ending the impasse at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. These letters, from each one of you – from anyone who has stood by us and would like to show their support in some form – addressed directly to the Prime Minister must raise your concerns about the strike at FTII and the larger issues plaguing higher education in India.

Please send that letter – written in any Indian language – to us by **the 3rd of September** – physically or via email (Students Body, Film and Television Institute of India, Law College Road, Pune, Maharashtra, 411004 OR letterstotheprm.ftii@gmail.com) – so that we can then send them to the Prime Minister's office collectively on the 5th of September.

We also want to make a **live, human art installation** using these very letters that raise our concerns, written by you, in an **event on the 5th of September** on the FTII campus. In a space created specially for it, every student will get an opportunity to read out live, a randomly picked letter and physically be a part of this installation. In reading each other's letters, instead of our own, the installation will aim to harness a sense of collective amongst people from across the country and help all of us arrive at a deeper understanding of each other and of how we perceive the **ominous threats to education** in our nation and this strike. Along with being a live artwork and a video work, this event will also be **streamed live across the country**.

We hope that you will focus your articulation in succinctly getting the attentions of the Prime Minister and pointing out to him why you feel his intervention is now absolutely necessary.

Please find attached below a sample letter addressed to the Prime Minister, which you may or may not want to use as a reference. Also attached is a list highlighting our key concerns and demands regarding this strike.

We look forward to reading all of your letters live on 5th September, Teacher's Day at FTII – a day which we invite all of you to be a part of as well, in what we hope will be a **resounding event** that highlights the most urgent concerns of this nation's students and citizens to the public and to their Prime Minister.